

Memorial honors war dead

By JOSEPHINE ZIMMERMAN
Herald Staff Writer

An impressive black marble war memorial patterned after the Vietnam Memorial in Washington D.C. was dedicated Friday in ceremonies at the Utah County Building.

County Commission Chairman Brent Morris said the memorial was two years in the making, and he urged anyone who knew of names that were missed to tell the commission so they could be added.

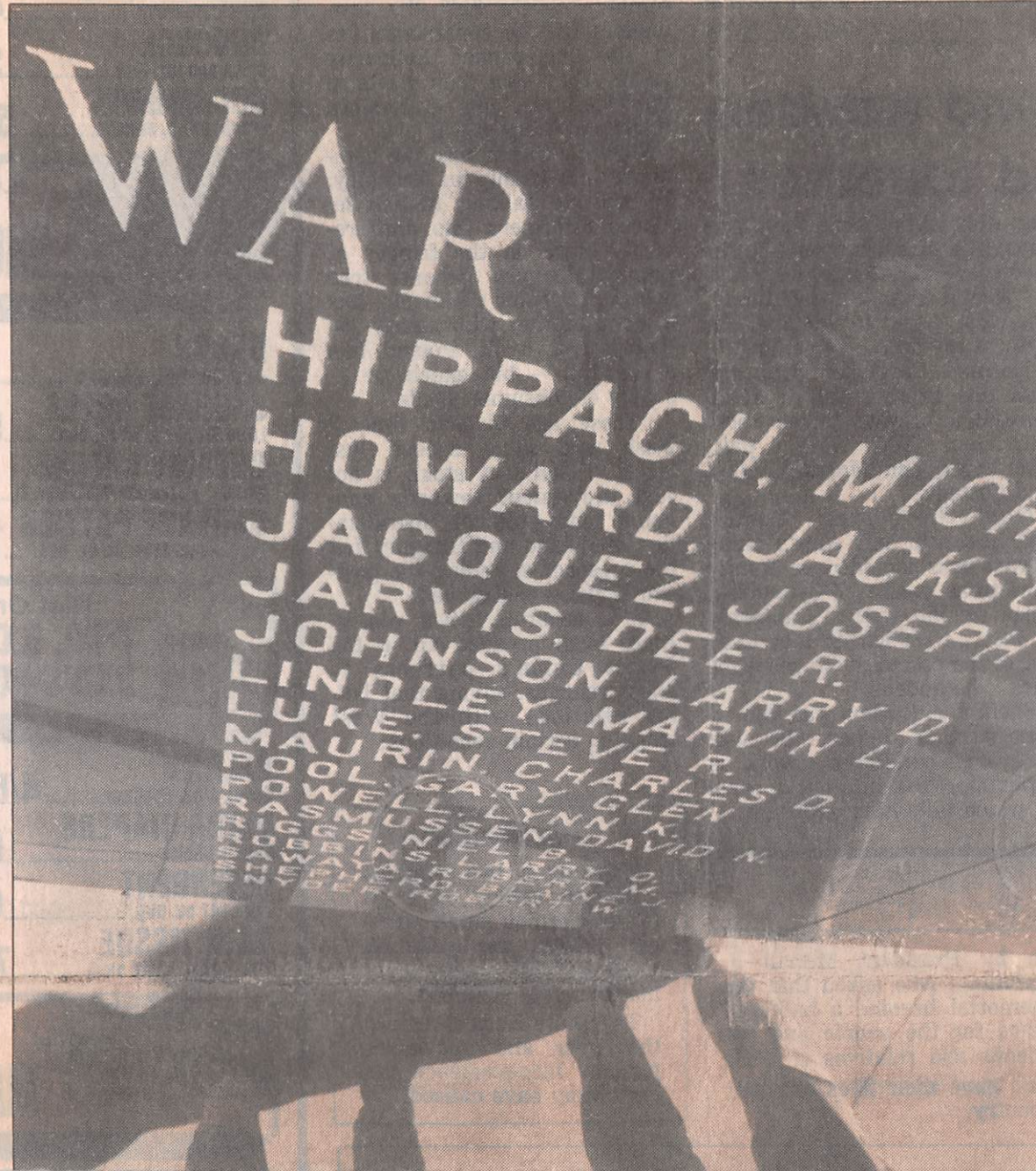
The memorial bears the names of Utah County veterans who gave their lives in the service of their country — 29 veterans of World War I, 147 veterans of World War II, four Korean Conflict veterans and 40 from the Vietnam war.

Lt. General Robert C. Oaks, a Provo native, gave the keynote address, recalling stories about all four wars and how public opinion changed during the Vietnam war.

He told of developments in the political area, declaring that events have since proven that the men who gave their lives in those wars did not die in vain.

He urged the citizens to give thanks for the freedom and blessings their sacrifices have allowed us to enjoy.

A touching tribute to the fallen soldiers was given by Cathleen Caras, who waited 23 years to hear the fate of her husband Maj. Franklin Caras, who was shot down in Southeast Asia.



MEMORIAL:

(Continued from Page A1)

She said the return of her husband's body was one of the greatest blessings her family received, "to know that he died with pride, serving his country, and did not have to endure all the trials we imagined."

Congressman Howard C. Nielson spoke of the recent Supreme Court decision on flag burning, and said "If the Constitution doesn't protect the flag, maybe we ought to change the Constitution."

He paid tribute to the men honored on the memorial, saying "Our land is still free because of the sacrifice they made."

Opening prayer was given by Pearl Rex, who's son, Capt. Allen Rex, is among the 19 Utah servicemen listed as missing in action in Southeast Asia.

Dedicatory prayer was given

by President Merrill J. Bateman, who asked that the memorial become a hallowed place for the people and the friends and relatives of those who gave their lives for their country.

Southeast Asia. She likened the hard, cold black granite to how bad it was for those men who gave their lives.

Mrs. Caras read a letter written by a woman whose husband was listed as missing in World War I. The woman wrote that she would rather have heard her husband had been killed, than live with the fears and doubts of not knowing.



Herald Photo/Trent Nelson

Kari Megis and Jean Tau examine the new Utah County War Memorial.

"Twenty three years ago that letter would not have had the meaning it does for me now. I would write a letter like that today," she said.

Declaring that "You know you can handle anything better than not knowing," she recalled the sleepless nights devoted more to praying than

sleeping, of having her heart ache for all he has missed of the children growing up.

(See MEMORIAL, Page A2)